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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of documents (1) to (9) are enclosed.

- (1) JP 4-178879
- (2) JP 6-309375
- (3) JP 7-021203
- (4) JP 9-319765
- (5) JP 11-039332
- (6) JP 59-214959
- (7) JP 62-010771
- (8) JP 2000-076281
- (9) JP 2002-278994

Documents (1), (2) and (6) to (9) were cited during prosecution of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-029668, which corresponds to the above U.S. application. Documents (3) to (5) were cited during prosecution of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-029669, which is related to the afore-mentioned Japanese application. Copies of both Japanese Office Actions, which are dated October 19, 2007 are enclosed.

English-language abstracts accompany each of documents (1), (2) and (4) to (9). A full English-language translation accompanies document (3). The concise explanation of relevance for non-English language documents (1) to (9) is believed to be satisfied by the English language abstracts and the English language translation. See MPEP § 609.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing and returning a copy of the attached Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to
be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

Michael K. O'Neill
Attorney for Applicant
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